



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, INC.

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Appropriations Committee

Budget Public Hearing – Higher Education – University of Connecticut

February 15, 2023

Public Hearing Testimony on HB 6659: An Act Concerning the State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, And Making Appropriations Therefor

Testimony of Michael Bailey, Executive Director, UConn-AAUP

Members of the Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee, I pose the following question: What are your expectations of the University of Connecticut? Are they for the University to regain its top 25 standing of public colleges across the country, which it was for 11 straight years until 2022? Is it for UConn to maintain its relationship with companies that clamor for graduates like Aetna, Ernst and Young, Pratt & Whitney, PWC, and KPMG? Is it for UConn to attract more than the \$317 million in federal funding in 2022, which created 1,191 jobs and provided to return of \$1.01 in economic output elsewhere in the states economy? Or are your expectations for the University of Connecticut to build on its success and outpace our peer institutions for the best and most qualified students, staff and faculty?

While the Governor has proposed eliminating a significant thorn in the University's expenses with shifting the fringe benefit legacy costs to the Comptrollers Office, his proposal only includes continuing to fund a portion of the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding provided in last years budget. This will shift a significant remainder of the ARPA funding on to the operating budget.

Financially, the State of Connecticut has never been in a better position than right now to invest in higher education. State analysts are projecting a \$3.2 Billion surplus at the end of this fiscal year and another \$1.4 billion annually through 2026 with the recently approved guardrails for the spending and revenue caps.

Madame Chairs and committee members, this is the time to invest in higher education in order to maintain the economic engine and human capital that this state demands from its higher education institutions. Please don't miss this opportunity.